

AN
EPISTLE
TO ALL MY
DEAR FRIENDS
Elect and Precious
IN
AMERICA.

Stand fast in the Faith which *Christ Jesus* is the Author of, by his heavenly Ensign, in your heavenly Armour and in your heavenly Weapons, your feet shod with the heavenly Gospel, and your Heads preserved with the Helmet of Salvation, and your Hearts preserved with the Breast-plate of Righteousness, and so stand feeling and seeing *God's* Banner of Love over your Heads, manifesting that you are the good ground, that *God's* Seed has taken root downward in, and spring upward in, and bring forth Fruits in some 60. and in some 100 fold in this Life; to the Praise and Glory of *God*, always beholding the Sun of Righteousness, that never sets, ruling the supernatural Day of which you are Children, and the persecutors Sun (the heat of it which rises and sets again) cannot scorch your Blade, which it may do that Seed that grows on the stony Ground.

And therefore, be valiant for *God's* Truth upon the Earth, and fear him, that can break their Fetters, there Goals, and there Bonds in sunder, and can make your Fleece to grow again, after the Wolves have torn the Woll from your Backs; for *the Rod of the wicked shall not be always upon the backs of the righteous.*

And therefore mind *Christ*, who is the first and last, who bruises the Head of him who is the Head of all Persecutors, to wit, the Devil.

And consider how all the Faithfull in all Ages suffered from righteous *Abel* to *Just Lot*, and the Children of *Israel* by *Pharaoh*, and all the true Prophets by the false, and *Christ* and the Apostles by the vagabond professing *Jews* (out of the possession) and what rejoycing it was to them to suffer for the Lord *Jesus*, and how it was given unto them, *not onely to believe, but also to Suffer*; so it was a Gift of *God* to them, not onely to believe, but to suffer, and to carry them up in their Suffering.

And consider how all the Martyrs and Saints have suffered since the Apostles dayes, by the *Heathens* and false Christians; and so there is no new thing under the Sun.

And therefore keep your Meetings in the Name of *Jesus*, whose Name is above every Name, in whose Name you have salvation; and be valiant for *God's* Truth upon the Earth, and sound his Name abroad and keep in the Truth, and give no just Occasion to the Adversary; for the Lamb must have the Victory; and keep in the Lords Power, that is over all, and in his peaceable Truth, in which you will feel the Good and eternal Welfare & Salvation of all People.

And the Prophet *Esaiah* speaking of *Christ* sayes, *In all their Afflictions he was afflicted, & the Angel of his Presence saved them*, so all Friends feel the Lord in all your Afflictions.

And the Apostle saith, *We our selves glory in you in the Churches of God, for your Patience and Faith in all your Persecution and Tribulation that you indure.*

So here you may see the Saints are one another's Joy in the Lord, who doth uphold them in all their Persecutions, Tribulations, and Sufferings; and therefore look over the Devil, that is out of Truth, that makes to suffer, to *Christ*, who bruises his Head; and in *Christ*, who is first and last, in him have you Rest, Life and Peace.

And you see by faith, *Moses* chose rather to suffer Afflictions with the People of *God*, then to enjoy the Pleasures of Sin for a Season.

So by Faith, *he esteemed the Reproaches of Christ* greater Riches, then the Treasures in *Egypt*.

And by Faith *Moses* forsook *Egypt*, not fearing the wrath of the King, for he indured, as seeing him who is invisible; and so by Faith *God's* People now forsake *Egypt* in Spirit.

And by faith the Mouthes of the Lyons were stopt; and by faith they indured Tortures, not expecting Deliverance that they might obtain a better Resurrection, and by Faith they underwent all the Cruel mockings, scourgings, Bonds and Imprisonments; and by Faith they underwent Stoneing and Sawing asunder, and were tempted and slain with the Sword, and they wandered about in Sheep-skins and Goats-skins, being destitute, afflicted and tormented, of whom the World was not worthy, &c.

Now all these lived in the one Faith, by which they saw him who was invisible, which is the Faith of *God's* elect now (which *Christ Jesus* is the Author and Finisher of) which Faith upholds his People now, as it did them, against the Persecutors in Dayes and Ages past.

And hold fast the hope which anchors the Soul, which is sure and stedfast, that you may float above the worlds Sea; for your Anchor holds sure and stedfast in the Bottom, let the Winds, Storms and raging Waves rise never so high: And your star is fixt, by which you may steer to the eternal Land of Rest, and Kingdom of *God*: So no more, but my Love to you all.

Swarthmore in Lancashire
the 12th of the 12th
Moneth, 1675.

G. Fox.

Broadside
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